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Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**Former Off Track Betting  
Head admits stealing money  
from former employee**

NEW YORK—Civil rights activist Hazel Dukes will not have to serve any time in jail if she makes full restitution to a former Off Track Betting (OTB) employee whose payroll account she used to buy flowers, taxi rides, dry-cleaning and donation to her various charities and political campaigns.

A former NAACP national president, Dukes lost her position as head of OTB in 1994. The victim of the theft, Velma "Mona" McLaughlin asked Dukes to manage her accounts after suffering from leukemia and a stroke. "She thought I was a goner, so she had a good time with my money," the partially recovered McLaughlin said from her current home in Kansas.

**Quality of med school  
student high despite  
affirmative action**

LOS ANGELES—Medical school students who won their places through Affirmative Action became as good as doctors as those with higher scoring tests and grades. The University of California at Davis study was conducted because of the concern about the recent roll-backs in university system for affirmative action. The authors concluded that the dismissal's policy that takes race and unique skills into account showed "no evidence of diluting the quality of the graduates."

**New Jersey taxpayer pay  
more than they get  
back**

WASHINGTON—The average New Jersey resident paid \$1,900 more in federal taxes last year than they received in spending from Washington according to a Harvard University report.

The report stated that "this is a familiar position as New Jersey has been last in the state rankings for eight of the past 10 years. Per capita after-tax spending for New Jersey was \$3,841 more per capita than the state was \$5,756. The report was released by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York.

**Congressman Payne,  
among three meeting  
with Congolese president**

UNITED NATIONS—Congressman Donald Payne will be part of a delegation going to the Congo to persuade President Laurent Kabila to permit investigations of alleged massacres of refugees during the government takeover of the country from the long-time dictator, the late Mobutu Sese Seko.

Payne will join U.N. Ambassador Bill Richardson and Congressman Howard Wepke of Michigan. A State department spokesman said the three were chosen because of their availability and their familiarity with the situation."

**Church seeks end to death  
penalty in Texas after 31  
executed in 1997**

Catholic Church officials are urging the state of Texas to stop all executions saying that only God has the authority over human life and that these executions are contributing to the violence in prison life. Church spokesmen said that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime and costs millions of dollars. He also said that the procedure had racist implications.

Thirty-one men have been executed in Texas in 1997, the highest number in the state's history and the highest number in the United States.

# Court to rule on race preference in faulty case

PISCATAWAY—A Supreme Court case that could lead to the most important ruling in affirmative action in almost 20 years may be built on a false claim of racial preference.

In 1989, attempts by the Piscataway, NJ school board to deal with budget constraints triggered one of the most explosive employment discrimination cases in the country. The board was forced to eliminate one teaching position in the business department of the local high school. After the assessing the credentials of two instructors, Debra Williams and Sharon Tatum, the school board decided that they were equally qualified.

The board's decision was to lay off Tatum,

a white teacher, and retain Williams, the Black teacher, to in their words, "promote diversity in the workplace."

Following this decision, Tatum filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The Bush administration joined the fray and used the school for discrimination. In 1991, by the time a federal judge ruled for Tatum, she had been rehired. She was awarded \$144,000 in back pay and damages, and the board was ordered to make her seniority as if she had never been laid off.

The Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the judge's ruling by an 8-4 vote last August. The appeals court said Title VII pro-

hibits any race conscious decision-making if it is not taken to remedy past discrimination.

In the appeal acted on last month, the school board raised the Supreme Court's landmark 1978 ruling that first conditioned the concept of affirmative action. The court said that racial diversity could be a factor in a university's admission decisions but that racial racial quotas could not be used.

Since then, the court's ruling on the legitimacy of affirmative action by private and public employers and government set-aside programs have been far from consistent. In its last full-blown decision on affirmative action, the court in 1995 curtailed the federal government's power to

give special help to racial minorities.

In an interview on a nationally-televised news program, Debra Williams stated that she thought the Piscataway school board "took the easy way out" in siding with the white teacher. Tatum's lawsuit was based on racial preference instead of Williams being more qualified than Tatum. Williams believes that, because of her Master's degree, she is the more qualified of the two, even if both women were hired on the same day.

City News has learned from other sources that in addition to Williams earning a higher salary, she has maintained a spottless record with no reprimands.

# NAACP beacon of hope

NEWARK—Newark is well on its way to claiming its place as an entertainment mecca. The much-anticipated opening of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Saturday, October 18 signaled the beginning of what will undoubtedly become one of the East Coast's premier showplace venues.

Part of the continuing revitalization of downtown Newark, many of the people now seeing this dream materialize voice confidence and optimism in the future of the center.

During the gala opening night festivities, which included performances by opera star Kathleen Battle, Tony award-winning tap dancer Savion Glover, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Lincoln Center jazz Orchestra conducted by Wynton Marsalis, Ray Chambers, co-chairman of NJPAC, noted that the world-class arts center was completed on time and on budget. Reminiscing on what the city was and what it will be again, Chambers said that, as a young man, he got a great sense of pride and hope in being in Newark—of going downtown and shopping in the great stores like Bamberger's.

"Several people have asked me what is the Arts Center to the city? I say that it is a beacon of hope, a symbol of hope."

That symbol of hope is an elegant, brick-red complex of two main halls plus rehearsal and banquet facilities, public amenities, and an outdoor plaza named Theater Square. The opening program was taped for broadcast on PBS "Great Performances."

According to Lawrence P. Goldman, President and Chief Executive Officer of NJPAC, opening night marked the culmination of a ten-year drive that brought together civic leaders and business executives, suburbanites and inner-city residents, lovers of Mozart and lovers of the great symphonies in a common effort to create a new cultural institution.

"When a partnership of government officials and private-sector leaders joined forces to build the Arts Center in 1987," Goldman said, "very few people believed in the promise being made: that a major new center for the performing arts would be built in the Northeast for the first time in more than thirty years, and that it would be built in downtown Newark."

"It's New Jersey's time," commented Governor Christine Todd Whitman. "With the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, we will show that we belong in the major league in the arts, as we do in business, industry, education, and sports. And with the pride of building NJPAC comes the economic boom it will give to Newark, contributing powerfully to the renaissance of New Jersey's number-one city."

The Honorable Thomas H. Kean, Chairman of the Arts and Cultural Committee, commented, "While I was Governor of New Jersey, I announced plans for the creation of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. In more than a decade, we have seen this project transformed from a few words on a piece of paper to this magnificent structure today. But it will be the artists and productions that grace its stages that will give the building its true identity and character."

The Center occupies a 12-acre site in Newark, centrally located between the downtown office buildings and the Passaic River waterfront. The 230,000 square foot building, the centerpiece of this \$180 million project, incorporates a 2,750-seat multi-use auditorium named Prudential Hall; a 514-seat performing space named the Victoria Theater; a 3,000-square-foot rehearsal space, convertible for banquets, special events, and use as a "black box" performance space; a community room; administrative offices; lobbies; restaurants; including the performance area for cabaret and popular entertainment; a gift shop; and a rotunda entrance.

Theater Square, a public plaza suitable for outdoor programs and events, is being constructed along the Prudential Hall side of the building. The Victoria Theater will be a traditional City Hall, Newark's traditional city commons.

Proximity to Pennsylvania Station along with easy access to four main highways and Newark International Airport, was a major reason why downtown Newark was selected as the site for the Arts Center, according to Goldman. "Northern New Jersey is the most densely populated area of the United States, and one of its most diverse, ethnically and economically," Goldman noted. "More than four and a half million people live within a 25-mile radius of downtown Newark, and they will all find it very easy to come to the Arts Center. All roads lead to Newark. To understand why, you won't have trouble parking."

Goldman feels confident in the marketing strategy they have developed for the arts and culture center of the Arts Center will be diversity in its programming schedule. Goldman is confident that this will be successful. "To understand why, you won't have trouble parking."

"The inner ring of suburbs around Newark has very stable, reasonably well-off families which are predominantly African-American. We view this as a tremendous marketing opportunity. We believe those people will come here, provided they feel we haven't built a palace but a place, which is warm, welcoming, open and friendly. We intend to go after those



The lobby of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center was packed for the gala opening. Photo by Glen Frison

audiences."

Goldman plans to be just as energetic in wooing the more traditional audiences. "For us to succeed, we need to attract people from all over northern New Jersey not just from Newark, not just from the inner suburbs. Many of those people have in fact stopped coming to Newark. They've stopped coming to cities, period," he said.

"We're saying to those people, you can't get what you want out there. If you want something with the energy and excitement and dynamism of the best that there is, you have to come here."

See Beacon of HopeA6

# Will Soul Food bring a new menu to Hollywood?

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Many are hoping that the smash box office success of the Black family-oriented film, Soul Food will finally make film executives realize that there are more dollars in making films that promote positive racial images than racial caricatures. But I am not convinced.

Soul Food writer-director George Tillman, Jr. noted that several studio executives originally rejected the project because it didn't have action and violence. Actor/filmmaker Tim Reid got the same cold shoulder from Hollywood when he shopped his film project, Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored in 1995. This film also gives a positive image about Black families and eventually did well at the box office.

However, it will take more than the jangling box office dollars of Soul Food or Once Upon A Time to free Hollywood of its misleading race affair with the ancient racialist exclusively for

Blacks. It knows that 1990's black-positive films that pump out the stereotypes, are cheaply made, and gross from \$15 to \$60 million. Hollywood also knows that Blacks crowd the theaters to see these films. When Hollywood is attacked for promoting negative racial stereotyping on the screen it cites these deceptively tiny to justify its actions.

"Soul Food reflects the reality of the Black life. They do not. Nine out of 10 adult Black males are not in prison, on probation or parole. Nearly six out of 10 young Blacks reside in two-parent households. Teen pregnancy rates have tumbled among Black girls and kept among non-Black girls. Three out of four Black women have never received welfare payments. Eight out of 10 adult Blacks are employed. The women and men in Soul Food much more closely reflect the family values of most Blacks than the dysfunctional parade of characters that are routinely paraded across the screen."

"All Black films employ Black



The members of Soul Foods extended family are: (Standing Left to right) Vanessa L. Williams, Michael Beach, Jeffrey D. Sams, Vivica A. Fox and Vanessa L. Williams. Seated are Irma P. Hall, Randall Hammond, Nia Long and Mekhi Phifer.

# Whitman and McGreevey need to do more homework

By g. mattox

Although each of the major gubernatorial candidates has his or her supporters and detractors, their promises and programs, on the whole, have not electrified the African-American electorate.

These feelings are reflected by the New Jersey Black Ministers Council—a group that is being courted ardently by both sides.

The Council recently issued their 1997 report card on the governors and general assembly. Reviewing Governor Whitman's record in 11 areas, the Council noted that she received a "D" grade for her strong support for affirmative action, because she is committed to veto any legislation opposing it, and area of judicial appointments. Whitman has named African-Americans to sit on the bench in four counties and the first Black to sit on the state Supreme Court.

Whitman received good marks in her overall welfare reform initiatives and her outreach to minorities, noting 20 percent of her appointments going to minorities. A bit behind these grades, the Council noted that she has created a climate that has assisted the private sector to create almost 200,000 jobs, with most of the employment paying a living wage.

In the areas of charity care, property taxes, school funding, the budget and her urban plan, the Council felt that the Whitman administration has made progress but could improve. Particular mention was made of her efforts to make housing affordable and available and rid neighborhoods of open air drug markets. "The economic revitalization is still slow and more attention should be paid to the infrastructure."

With an overall grade of B-, Whitman received her worst grade in auto insurance. Like her predecessors, she was unable to move her party to support her proposal for reform.

Jim McGreevey received a higher overall grade of B for his senate record.

In response to the minister's report, Whitman issued a statement that Republicans are failing better with traditionally aligned Democratic organization shows. However, in an interview with Rev. Reginald Jackson, president of the Black Ministers Council, he stated emphatically that the council is neither aligned with Democrats or Republicans but works for the welfare of their respective constituencies and their communities.

"The report card is not an endorsement of Republicans or Democrats. It is simply an evaluation of what the candidates have achieved in their careers," said Jackson.

The minister's Council announced that they will hand down individual endorsements this week.

## To our Readers:

Some community leaders and business people have joined together to urge the next governor of New Jersey to place the revitalization of New Jersey's urban communities as a top priority during his or her administration. Please read this statement on B6, Add your name to the list by faxing us at (908) 753-1036.

# Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

**ATLANTIC CITY**—The New Atlantic City Convention Center will hold various workshops through Oct. 24. Topics relating to current issues in education. For info, call 609-449-3940.

**PLAINFIELD**—"Domestic Violence: What Can You Do?" a step-by-step discussion about dealing with domestic violence and insuring personal safety at 10 a.m. at the YWCA. For more info, call 908-756-3036.

**PLAINFIELD**—Domestic violence, date rape and other issues in teen relationships 3 p.m. at Plainfield High School's youth services rec room.

**NORTH PLAINFIELD**—Impact of domestic violence on families and communities will be discussed at the Vernale Community Center. For more info, call 908-756-7721.

**MORRISTOWN**—New works by your favorite artists will be on display through Nov. 1 at the Simon Gallery. For more info, call 973-539-5456.

**ATLANTIC CITY**—Workshop 97, the annual conference for NJ's public school leaders will offer more than 100 training and informational programs through Oct. 24. For more info, call 908-279-5002.

**PARAMUS**—Alan Lazarus, professor of art, will present a one-person show at the Bergen Museum of Art and Science.

**CRANFORD**—Union County College is offering latecomers a chance to enroll in Fall Semester courses. For more detailed info, call 709-7500.

**PISCATAWAY**—An adolescent conference entitled "TEENS: Defusing the Fireworks" will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Raritan Valley Academy. For more info, call 908-281-1513.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

**WAYNE**—William Paterson University invites prospective graduate students to visit the campus. For more info, call 973-655-4333.

**UPPER MONTCLAIR**—Free public telescope nights will be held every clear Thursday from 8 to 9 p.m., weather permitting, with the exception of Nov. 27th. For more info, call 973-655-4333.

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—The NJ State Constitution, the NJ Institute for Continuing Legal Education and the NJ State Bar Association presents a program titled "To Govern a State: A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the NJ State Constitution" from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more info, call 732-214-5552.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

**NEWARK**—"Negro Building," a portrait of Booker T. Washington through the eyes of the woman who knew it best will be presented 8 p.m. at Newark

Symphony Hall. For more information, call 973-624-1584.

**PLAINFIELD**—Plainfield NAACP's annual leadership dinner will be held 7 p.m. at the Westwood in Garwood. For more information, call at 908-753-7648/908-754-0272. Deadline for tickets are Oct. 15.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**—The Million Women March will be held at Benjamin Franklin Parkway. For travel arrangements 3 p.m. at Plainfield High School's youth services rec room.

**WAYNE**—William Paterson University hosts day for parents at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call 973-720-2949.

**MONTCLAIR**—The Child Care Center at Montclair State University will sponsor a Tricky Tray in the Student Center Ballrooms. For more information, call 973-655-7586.

**CRANFORD**—Union County College presents an evening of renewing partnerships between education and business. For more information, call 908-753-7503.

**PLAINFIELD**—Non-Violence and Safety will be discussed 10 a.m. at United National Bank's Educational Center. For more information, call 908-756-5000.

**CRANFORD**—Union County College Foundation Gala to feature "The Right Mix" of food and entertainment from 6:30 p.m. to midnight. For more info, call 709-7505.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

**MAHWAH**—Rampage College of NJ will have an open house at 12:30 p.m. For more info, call 1-800-9-RAMPAQ.

**BRIDGEWATER**—St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center presents a Howl-o-Ween Howl from 12 noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 201-514-5888.

**WARREN**—The NJ Council for the Humanities 1997 book award will be presented to Samuel Freedman at the Council's Celebration Luncheon at the Somerset Hills Hotel. For more info, call 609-955-4638.

**PLAINFIELD**—The Van Wyck Brooks historic district presents "Spirts of the Past," a Halloween house tour of Village homes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 908-754-8918.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

**NEWARK**—The 70th Anniversary Extravaganza, of the Upsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity will be held at 7 p.m. at the Robert Trust Hotel. For more info, call 973-482-4115.

## Union County College president reelected to education board



Cranford—Dr. Thomas H. Brown, President of Union County College, has been elected to a second three-year term as a member of the Executive Board of the New Jersey President's Council. The Council was created under the Higher Education Restructuring Act of 1984 to provide coordination among institutions of higher education in New Jersey. It is composed of the presidents of public institutions of higher education in New Jersey and of independent institutions which receive direct aid from the state. A Plainfield resident, Dr. Brown came to central Jersey in 1980 from Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, New York, Division. He has also served on the faculties of Seton Hall University, Glassboro State College (now Rowan University), and William Paterson University Graduate School. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland and earned both an M.A. and Ph.D. from New York University.

## PNC Bank grant spurs growth of new community

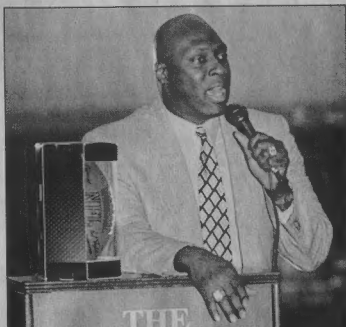


NEWARK—A \$5000 grant from the PNC Bank Community Greening Program will spur the growth of the Newark Community Greening Program throughout the city. Sponsored by the Greater Newark Conservancy (GNC), the Newark Community Greening Program forms block associations whose goal is to improve their neighborhoods by transforming physically blighted blocks into well-maintained, environmentally revitalized areas with productive open space.

"Thanks to the generous support of PNC Bank, we can expand our community greening efforts in Newark through the vacant lot, flower barrel and urban forestry projects," said Marlene Franco, Executive Director of The Greater Newark Conservancy. "The city of Newark has more than 4000 litter strewn vacant lots which degrade the surrounding neighborhoods. With an emphasis on environmental education and training, we work with community residents to transform these neglected lots into lush community gardens and parks."

## Emergency Services auction raises \$26,000

Fun and excitement filled the air and the Newark Club earlier this year when Newark Emergency Services for Families (NESF), Inc. hosted its 13th Annual Fund-raising Auction. Over 200 people attended the auction to bid on a wide range of items including: vacations to Jamaica, Hilton Head, SC and the Florida Keys; electronics; airline tickets; fine art and sports memorabilia. A total of \$26,000 was raised to assist needed individuals and families living in Essex County.



Otis Anderson, retired NFL player for the New York Giants, made a surprising guest appearance and auctioned his autographed team football.



NESF Board vice president Paula Vaughan, second from right, auction chair Don Viapre, and NESF Executive Director Jannette Page-Hawkins honor Seton College for his dedicated volunteer service for the past 13 years.

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## WORLD BRIEFS

## TANZANIA EXPELS BURUNDIAN REFUGEES

**BUUMBURA, Burundi (PANA)**—Tanzania expelled Burundian refugees during the first week of October, National High Commissioner for Refugees told PANA. Reasons for the expulsions, Guy Avognon, who is in charge of the expulsions, said, "The refugees have been crossing the border for several days although we believe their number might be less than 200." Avognon said that Tanzanian officials were questioning the continued presence of Burundian refugees which had been in Tanzania since 1972. He said some of the newest arrivals were married to Tanzanians. These were rounded up from various towns and villages before being expelled. However, Avognon said that a large number of Burundian refugees were still living in two camps along the Tanzania-Burundi border. One of these, in Kuguma, host 200,000 people while the other, in Ngara, houses 100,000. The Burundian government has complained that Tanzanian officials are ignoring the political and military activities of rebels living in these camps. So, Burundi is asking Tanzania to move the camps to locations farther away from the border.

The First Lady of the West African nation of Sierra Leone, in a meeting

## EXILED FIRST LADY OF SIERRA LEONE ASKS HELP RESTORING DEMOCRACY

with the U.S.-based National Council of Churches' Africa Committee, appealed for international condemnation of the military junta that seized power in May and for the restoration to office of her husband's government, the country's first democratically elected government in 30 years. "The Council of Churches in Sierra Leone has asked the rebels to hand power back peacefully to the elected government," said Patricia Kabba, wife of exiled President Tejan Kabba. She said she came to the United States "to let a democratic people know our democratic government was taken over for reasons of greed and power and to inflict suffering." She is asking the U.S. government "to take the lead in supporting global sanctions against the junta. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled Sierra Leone to Guinea, the Gambia and Liberia. The Kabba government-in-exile is operating from neighboring Guinea."

## FRANCE PLEDGES AFRICA ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR SECURITY

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (PANA)**—French Foreign Minister Hubert Verdinne announced that Paris will contribute \$1 million to the Organization of African Unity's (OAU) conflict prevention and management body. He said in Addis Ababa that France also intended to give at least \$300 million in 1998, for training and equipment used by African diplomats in the Ethiopian capital headquarters of the OAU, the continent's foremost political body. His speech centered on the new French policy towards Africa. Verdinne told diplomats that his presence signaled "France's will to develop relations with all the countries of Africa" and to reaffirm its support for the OAU. He said that Paris wanted the aid of other nations to be coordinated. He noted that Britain, France and the United States have recently proposed that all aid for Africa be placed under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAU. He added that France favored cancellation of Africa's \$300-billion debt which "remains a major handicap" at a time when Africa is looking for a new momentum for development.

## Churches see debt as a critical African issue

By Ghlon Hagos  
Special to the NNPA from PANA

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (PANA)**—The 142-member All-Africa Conference of Churches has cited the debt burden among the major critical issues facing the continent. In a communiqué issued Oct. 10, in Addis Ababa, to conclude the week-long series of events included in the organization's seventh general assembly, the continental church body called for a strong lobby to cancel Africa's \$300 billion debt.

The document listed good government, alleviation of poverty and disease, including HIV/AIDS and improving the conditions of children, youth and women, as other challenges. In the drive to write off Africa's debt, the assembly called for collaboration "with organizations already committed to the campaign for debt cancellation."

However, the meeting proposed four pre-conditions which could be used in according states debt cancellation. These conditions are: True democratization in which people participate in decision making, respect for human rights, demilitarization and the reduction of defense funds to public social projects.

Church leaders committed themselves to working with the peoples and governments of Africa to improve education and health systems, with particular emphasis on the needs of women and children.

They also pledged to work with governments and civil societies to bring about a total ban on the manufacture, production, stockpiling, exportation, importation and distribution of land mines.

The assembly resolved to help in the demining of Angola, Mozambique and Sudan. It also issued several recommendations, one of which read: "Those in power, in church and state, must stop serving their own narrow interests. They must serve the interests of all God's people."

Another calls on the elimination of denominational division in the church in Africa.

The assembly also issued an open letter urging African leaders to carry out social transformation of the continent, back the debt relief movement and respect human rights.

The main focus of the conference was the quotation from St. Paul, "Troubled, But Not Destroyed," which officials said reflects Africa's current problems.

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## Tucker files suit against Time and Newsweek

She says media has  
'Hollywoodized' her claim

**WASHINGTON, DC—Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, Chair, National Political Congress of Black Women, filed an amended defamation lawsuit against Time and Newsweek magazines for making mischaracterizations of an original suit against Time Warner, the estate of Tupac Shakur, Death Row and Interco Records, Seagrams, Tower Records, Ted Field and other entertainment entities and officials for defamation of character. The announcement was made during a press conference at the National Press Club by her attorney, Richard C. Angino, of Harrisburg, PA.**

The suit, filed in Eastern Pennsylvania, names Richard Fischbein, co-administrator of the late Tupac Shakur's estate, as well as Belinda Luscombe, a Time Magazine reporter, and Newsweek reporter Johnnie L. Roberts. They are charged with mischaracterizing Dr. Tucker's inability to have sex due to the original suit filed July 21.

Dr. Tucker reiterated that the "Media continues to distort, twist, trivialize and 'Hollywoodize' our complaint against the Shakur estate and the vast entertainment consortium that produce and distribute this defamation all over the world."

In reference to the Newsweek and Time articles, "They insist on twisting that part in the suit where it is charged Mr. Tucker suffered a 'loss of consortium' into loss of sex."

"Sex was not mentioned anywhere throughout the sixty-six counts in the suit."

But they twisted it, in order to defame and discredit my efforts to stop them from pimping pornography,

violence and drugs to children," Dr. Tucker charged.

Angino said, "In the July 21, 1997 (original) suit, a consortium, was claimed by Dr. Tucker's husband that reads in Paragraph 50, Plaintiff's husband, William Tucker, (it is charged) has as a result of his wife's injuries suffered a loss of advice, companionship and consortium." Angino further stated, "Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines consortium as '...the legal right of one spouse to the company, affection and services of the other.'"

Dr. Tucker's lengthy crusade against gangsta rap music's misogynous and pornographic lyrics, lyrics she insists, "defames Black women and Black people in general, panders pornography to our children, and despoils talented inner city music artists," has been ongoing for five years. Her lawsuit against Shakur's estate stemmed from his *All Eyez On Me* album, where he likened Dr. Tucker to a prostitute.

In the song "Wounds Why They Call U B—," Shakur sang, "Got your legs up trying to get rich. Keep your head up and legs closed dear Ms. DeLores Tucker. Dear Ms. DeLores Tucker you keep stressing me. F—king with a m-shuf-cker mind. I figure you want to know why we call these ho's b-tches, at least this might help understand it ain't personal, strictly business."

The lyrics to another song, "How Do You Want It" read, "C. DeLores Tucker you're a m-b-tha-cker, instead of trying to let a brother you destroy a nigger."

Dr. Tucker says the record companies are merely trying to stop her from criticizing music that is "hate-ridden, race driven, violence and



C. DeLores Tucker

drugs driven, and greed driven." She further asserts her targets are "the gangsta in the entertainment suites," not the poor, talented artists in the streets who are forced to produce music defaming themselves and their people.

In filing the amended suit against Time and Newsweek, Angino said, "the news media finds the false and defamatory mischaracterizations of Tupac Shakur's co-administrator Richard Fischbein more attractive in selling copy than the truth that Tupac Shakur and the marketing media have been attempting to shut up Dr. Tucker in every way they can." As a result, he continued, the plaintiffs "have been forced to file Second Amended Complaint and an action against Time and Newsweek in an action to stop once and for all false, malicious, humiliating attacks upon Dr. Tucker and her husband" in excess of \$5 million.

## NAACP objects to definition of racial epithet

**BALTIMORE—NAACP President & CEO Kweisi Mfume criticized the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary's definition of a "nigger" as a "black person" or a "member of a dark-skinned race" and has announced the NAACP plans to**

join a national letter-writing campaign to pressure Merriam-Webster to either drop or change the definition.

"The NAACP finds it objectionable that Merriam-Webster would use black people as a definition for a racist term," Mfume said. "A 'nigger'

is not a black person or a member of a dark-skinned race as defined by Merriam-Webster. It is not a definition of a person's race, but a derogatory word," Mfume added. "There clearly needs to be a correction immediately."

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OPINION OCTOBER 22-OCTOBER 28, 1997

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# BUSINESS CALENDAR

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

**SOMERSET**—The statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey presents "Partnering for Success," Convention and Expo, at the Garden State Convention Center. For more information call, 908-595-1470.

**BRIDGEWATER**—Business showcases and networking from 4-7 p.m. at the Bridgewater Manor. For more info, call 908-725-1552.

**EAST BRUNSWICK**—The Professional Real Estate Organization (NAR) will hold a membership dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. For more info, call 201-998-0395.

**NORTH BRANCH**—The New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners will present a seminar titled "The Business Plan Basics." On Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Burlington Valley CC. Registration: \$150. For information call 908-560-9607.

**SOMERSET**—Business Expo at the Garden State Convention Center. For more information, call 908-595-1470.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

**WARREN**—Telecommuting and the Flexible Workplace—The Business Benefits Case from 6 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Lucien Technologies, Inc. For more info, call 908-954-4472.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

**NEW YORK, NY**—How to develop and execute a profitable marketing plan on a shoestring presented by Andrew Morrison, Pres. of Nis Direct, 6:30 p.m. at New York University. For more info, call 212-285-0865.

# Ground broken for South Ward Industrial Park

**NEWARK**—Mayor Sharpe James joined leaders of public and private organizations including the Newark Council, the Newark Economic Development Corporation (NEDC), Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) and many South Ward local organizations and state and federal officials in breaking ground for the South Ward Industrial Park, a 100,000 square-foot light industrial complex.

The industrial park, located in an Urban Enterprise Zone, will be located at the intersection of Bergen Street and Hawthorne Avenue in Newark. It is expected to draw labor intensive businesses to the South Ward and create more than 300 new jobs. The industrial park is one of many coordinated projects in the South Ward designed to improve the housing, educational facilities and employment opportunities in the South Ward. The building will cost \$6.8 million and is expected to be completed by September, 1998.

Funding for the project comes from the NEDC, the City of Newark, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, PSE&G, the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NEDC is the lead developer for the project.

PSE&G has committed to aggressively market the park and create a package of utility incentives to attract businesses to the complex. Space is expected to rent for \$4.50 a square foot.

PSE&G has been instrumental in forming The South Ward Neighborhood Partnership, a partnership of over 300 partners that are committed to comprehensive neighborhood revitalization through economic, business and community development, education and training; and social services and public safety improvements. The South Ward Neighborhood Partnership will help establish a child care center and after-school facilities for workers' children and work with NJ Transit to establish effective bus routes in and around the park.

"We are proud to break ground for this \$6.8 million South Ward Industrial Park," said Newark Mayor Sharpe James. "The complex will revitalize a community that has been plagued by abandonment and blight and provide the neighborhood with one of the most essential components of this administration's economic development goals—jobs for our residents."

"In addition," Mayor James continued, "the housing authority will build housing nearby to complement the project which will transform the area into an attractive residential and commercial neighborhood offering such amenities as daycare, job training and recreational outlets. It is a great day for the residents of the South Ward and the City of Newark."

"I am convinced that the future of New Jersey is tied to the future of our cities, and we are committed to this state's success," said PSE&G's Al Koeppe, senior vice president—corporate services and external affairs. "We plan on using the lessons of the South Ward Neighborhood Partnership as a model for revitalizing other cities in New Jersey."

plan on using the lessons of the South Ward Neighborhood Partnership as a model for revitalizing other cities in New Jersey.

"We feel there is a strong demand for top quality industrial space in Newark. We expect that this building will not only attract new businesses and jobs to Newark, but will also attract additional interest in developing other buildings in the area," said Alfred L. Faiella, executive director, NEDC, The South Ward Industrial Park's 100,000 square feet can be

divided into 10,000 square foot units to meet individual tenant's needs. Among the amenities at the park are ample car and truck parking, 26-foot ceiling heights to accommodate trucks, professional landscaping and 24 hour security and controlled access.



Rendering of the South Ward Industrial Park

plan on using the lessons of the South Ward Neighborhood Partnership as a model for revitalizing other cities in New Jersey.

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<b>BRONX</b> 10/21, 6-8 pm 70 East 161st St. bet. Grand Ave. & Grand Concourse  10/22, 5-7 pm 1536 Westchester Ave. corner of Boylston Ave.  10/30, 6-8 pm 128 East Fordham Road bet. Creston & Grand Concourse  11/19, 6-8 pm 5581 Broadway, corner of 231st St.	<b>LONG ISLAND</b> 10/21, 6-8 pm 601 Porton Road, corner of Ackerly Lake Ronkonkoma  10/30, 12-1 pm & 1-2 pm 4250 Veterans Memorial Hwy. Hillhurst	<b>WESTCHESTER</b> 10/23, 6-8 pm 191 Main Street Ave. White Plains  10/27, 6-8 pm 22 West 1st St. Mount Vernon  10/28, 6-8 pm 314 South Broadway Yonkers

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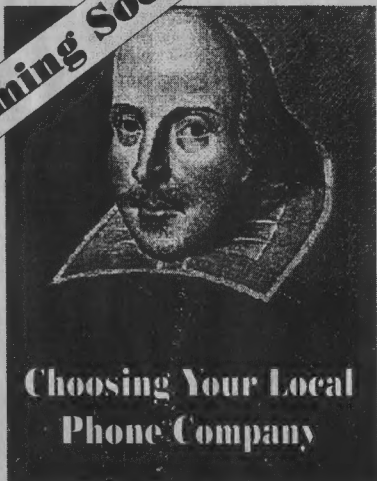
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# Local Briefs

## NJN's community affairs series addresses issues in the Black community

TRENTON—Another View, NJN's African-American community affairs series will present "Empowerment Summit" on Sunday, Oct. 26, 12 p.m.

This 30-minute special examines existing empowerment initiatives designed to strengthen minority communities.

Another View will step into the political race with Election '97: The Black Vote on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 2, at noon.

This public affairs special explores the state of affairs of the African-American community and identify what issues many black voters feel strongly about.

## California Senator to deliver keynote at breakfast for Wynona Lipman

NEWARK—Diane E. Watson, Ph.D., a member of the California State Senate, will speak to attendees at New Jersey State Senator Wynona Lipman's Annual Breakfast on Sunday, October 26, 1997 at 8:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Robert Treat Hotel, 50 Park Place in Newark and is a fundraiser to support Senator Lipman's re-election bid.

## Essex County agencies meet to discuss concerns over children's health care

NEWARK—The Newark Emergency Services for Families (NESF) 9th Annual Networking Conference "Healthy Children, Ready to Learn" will focus on children's health care issues. The Conference will be held on Thursday, November 6, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, 201 Lyons Avenue, Newark.

NESF's networking conference will bring together social service providers, health care providers, community leaders, and concerned citizens to discuss and share information that will benefit needy families and children in Essex County. For more information on the conference, please contact NESF at (973) 643-5727.

# Meeting discusses residents concerns

The problem of unleashed and roaming dogs came to a head in Plainfield recently when 11-year-old James Fletcher was viciously attacked while playing with friends in a neighborhood park.

Residents of West End Gardens and Liberty Village attended a meeting with the Plainfield Police to discuss this and other quality of life situations in these housing complexes.

Fletcher's mother, Delores was among the 30 concerned residents attending the meeting. She was not only concerned for her son, who received five puncture wounds from the dog, but for other individuals: Saying what she could do to get rid of the problem, she told the group, "my boy has 19 stitches. He's got to get four more stitches. Anything I can do about it, I'm gonna do it!"

The young Fletcher additionally must take expensive medication to ward off infection.

The dog's owner, Theresa Linco, of 654 West Front Street, was given four warnings for violations of the city dog ordinance. She later retrieved the dog from the city's animal control agency.

Officer L. Hudson, a member of the police force assigned to the mini-station serving the Elmwood Gardens-West End Gardens-Liberty Village complex, told the residents that the police are here for them and available to them. "We'll be 50 percent walking, in my opinion, 30 percent bike and 20 percent car use, so we're always out there."

"You will get a chance to talk to these officers—we want to know your concerns. There's a lot of things we know about here, but there's a lot of things we don't know about that you see everyday," he said.

Other areas of concern in this block association meeting were to discuss ways of removing the negative elements from the neighborhood, including the

extensive drug activity, the relocation of the Methadone clinic, resident safety, curfew and confidentiality of phone calls to police.

Sergeant J.F. Alexander informed the residents about each officer having a separate phone number and voice mail for them if they would like to speak with a particular officer. Again, he stressed to the audience, "We're here to work with you." Additional patrols have been posted in the area.

A resident of Dixon said, "In order for us to be successful in this venture, we've got to take a risk. In order for us to get rid of what it is we are looking to weed out our neighborhood, somebody has got to stand up. You can't sit home and look out your window and see these guys dealing these drugs. You have an obligation to pick up the phone and call police."

Sergeant Alexander told the residents they don't have to give personal

information if they choose not to. "We will take the information you give us, investigate and act on that," he said. "We are not traditional, we have more time to spend with each problem to try to reach

a solution."

The number to the mini-station is 908-226-2556. If you have a problem with a dispatcher at Plainfield Police Headquarters, call 908-753-3013.



Sergeant J.F. Alexander discussing new police operations

## NJPAC: A Beacon of Hope

Continued from page 1

to the NJPAC.

"There are plenty of people out there who want to see world-class artists, and see them live. But they don't want to leave at five for an eight o'clock curtain or pay \$28 for parking."

Stephanie Hughley, vice president for the Center's programming agrees with Goldman that the Arts Center can be nothing but a success. She says of skeptics, "I'm glad they're skeptical. It confirms that I'm in the right place. In fact, this may be the only place where we could make this happen, because until very recently, downtown Newark was the most undervalued piece of real estate in North America."

This city has an amazing mixture of people, representing every culture imaginable. It can already draw on resources that include strong colleges, wonderful theater companies, and a very important museum, as well as a fine symphony orchestra. It's the hub

of a fantastic transportation network. When I think of all the opportunities Newark offers, and the way this city has been left wide open for cultural development, I realize that this is the most exciting place for me to be right now."

Although they will work in different ways, Philip Thomas, vice president of arts education, shares Hughley's confidence that he can carry out his place in the NJPAC's mission. "Education and programming are part of a whole, of a center, and everyone should be able to relate to that. I truly believe no one should have to say, 'I can't participate in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center,'" he said.

"If somebody calls me on the phone and asks how to participate, my first three questions are going to be, 'Where do you live? What are you interested in? How can we make it happen?' We are working towards that goal of being able to serve all the people of New Jersey."

## Prudential hosts Children's day at work



Like thousands of other work sites across the country, Prudential's "Take Our Children To Work Day" gave children of employees a firsthand look into their parents' working lives.

"Take Our Children To Work Day" was created as an alternative to "Take Our Daughters (and Take Our Sons) To Work Day" so that both boys and girls could participate. Shown here are children meeting Mary Swendeman, a Prudential employee that used a seeing-eye dog named Robin. She also hosted a diversity workshop that exposed children to issues that surround people with disabilities.

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## Ritalin: The cruellest form of 'help'

by Lori Sanders

Painful memories have been flooding my mind lately as I read about the controversy over the use of the drug Ritalin for "Attention Deficit Disorder," otherwise known as ADD, or ADHD, HYPERACTIVITY. This drug is increasingly used to improve/control the academic performance of young children starting as early as pre-school and continuing through the school and has been around and prescribed for over 50 years.

Seventeen years ago my son was a bright, energetic, happy and beautiful young child, straight out of kindergarten with his whole life to look forward to. Then it happened. His first grade teacher—I can't really remember her name and maybe I don't want to—called me into her first grade class one day to discuss my son's behavior. She said, "I've got an apparent inability to focus in class and stay on task as well as all the other children. He is very hyperactive and that I should take him to the doctor to have him diagnosed. Not long after that I remember sitting in the waiting room, being called back by my 7-year-old son and within five minutes my son was diagnosed with ADD, and I held a 3-part prescription for Ritalin (each copy going to the proper government agency since this drug was so extremely addictive, like heroin or cocaine, or speed, which it is). Never was my family history taken, never was I warned of the adverse side effects of this long term drug, and worst yet, never did I think of getting a second opinion, nor did I question the doctor about the adverse side effects of this drug. Like a dutiful mother I just figured he was the doctor. He knew what he was doing.

Three years later I found myself and now 10-year-old son sitting in the waiting room of another doctor. He was the head of Child Behavior at Chock's Children's hospital. My son was now showing signs of adverse side effects of the drug Ritalin. His eyes were rolling in their eye sockets. He was doing weird ritual things like spitting three times in a row skipping three times only. He had facial ticks, eye blurring, facial contortions—things like that. My son's nervous system was permanently damaged; in medical terms, organic chemical imbalance of the brain caused by the drug Ritalin.

There is a disease that can precipitate from the drug Ritalin. It is called Tourette Syndrome. It's the disease you may have heard about lately on talk shows, when a person uses profanity loudly anywhere, anytime, and can't seem to control their physical impulses as well. My son never had this symptom, he was one of the lucky ones. He had a different degree of an involuntary nerve tick disorder, but I met someone who did suffer from T.S. after being on Ritalin for only nine months. Many children grow up to become drug addicts and alcoholics in their teen and early adult years due to the dependence of Ritalin in their life and because of the pain of withdrawal and the lack of coping skills they might have normally been able to learn. If only other alternative methods of therapy had been investigated and tried first. Some of us are truly looking for a quick fix, an easy answer. We're too busy for our kids. So we are willing to drug them if that is what it will take to get the job done and done fast.

My son was very blessed. At the age of 24 he still suffers from eye blurring and some light facial contortions but with God's help, vitamin and mineral therapy which helped heal his nervous system, and a much smarter mom, he now has a beautiful girlfriend, a very good paying job, and a bright future ahead of him.

## Working together to give back

PLAINFIELD—Visiting Nurse and Health Services, through its affiliate, Tri-County VNA, gave back to the community by volunteering for the Day Of Caring sponsored by United Way of Union County. Day Of Caring is designated by United Way as a day when companies that have made donations for United Way, non-profit organizations that are recipients of the funds, and volunteers come together to help the community.

Volunteers of United Way of Union County worked with volunteers, who are employees of Visiting Nurse and Health Services, to provide lunch for residents of a subsidized housing complex in Plainfield. Approximately 100 residents had lunch in the common dining area and another 20 residents were served in their apartments since they were physically unable to leave their apartments to attend the luncheon. Food and paper goods for the event were donated by Wakefern Incorporated.

Names of United Way Volunteers are: Fran Williamson, Willetta Ba Cote, Mary Ann Herin-Sisco, Tom Comerford, Rosa Lee, Hank O'Bryan, Florence Wright. Volunteers spent a great deal of time coordinating and planning for the event. Volunteers picked up the food from Wakefern to take to the housing. Residents of the

housing complex were extremely pleased to be served by volunteers. Volunteers said, "It was a very rewarding experience. It is amazing how we can help people in need when we pool our resources." Visiting Nurse and Health Services was supported by Wakefern to help the community and make the difference in the lives of residents of the housing complex. It is stories and people like these that encourage other individuals and companies to pool their resources to help the community.

Visiting Nurse and Health Services is a non-profit, Medicare certified home health care and hospice agency. It serves the four communities of Union, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset through its affiliates: Tri-County VNA, Visiting Nurse Affiliate, Greater Monmouth VNA, and Visiting Home Care. The agency has served the community for over 85 years. It serves over 10,000 patients annually and works with over 8,000 physicians. The agency also provides a great deal of community based programs, including flu shots, health screenings, public health education programs (over 1,000 educational programs in Union County alone in collaboration with local county agencies, companies and schools, covering topics such as health hazards of smoking).

## Oasis Temple #11 makes donations to St. Michael's



Oasis Temple donation to Saint Michael's pediatric floor is put to good use as patients Jaimee Exum, 8 months old, of Orange, and Jaemin Byrd, 5 years old, of Irvington watch the new TV together.



Members of the Oasis Temple #11 in Newark recently presented a check for pediatric patients at Saint Michael's Medical Center during a meeting of the hospital's leadership. Oasis Temple members held various fundraising activities throughout the year to raise the money for Saint Michael's and other special projects. The donation to Saint Michael's has been used to purchase a new VCR and monitor for the pediatric floor.

## Religious services linked to better health

Going to church may be as good for the body as it is for the soul, especially for the elderly, researchers are discovering.

Harold G. Koenig, MD, MHSC, and colleagues at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC, report in the October issue of the International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine that their study of more than 1,700 older adults in North Carolina revealed an association between religious observance and enhanced immune function that was consistent across multiple analyses.

The researchers report that 60 percent of elderly persons attend religious services at least once a week, despite increasing health problems, and earlier studies suggest that those who do attend church frequently are in better physical health than those who do not. What has been unclear is whether only the most healthy can get to church regularly or whether frequent church attendance prevents their health from declining or at least slows the decline.

In the first study to examine the relationship between religious attendance and the immune system, the Duke University researchers have followed since 1986 the religious behav-

ior of a randomly selected group called the Establishment of Populations for Epidemiologic Studies of the Elderly (PEPSE). They interviewed 1,727 participants at home and tested their blood for nine substances that indicate activity of the immune system and inflammatory response.

The investigators found that those who attended religious services frequently were only half as likely to have elevated levels of interleukin-6 (IL-6), which acts on a wide variety of cells, regulates the immune response and is involved in a variety of diseases, injuries and infections.

They said the relationship was not related to depression or negative life events and that similar associations were found for four of eight other substances tested to assess the immune system and inflammation.

The authors caution that their findings do not prove that frequent religious attendance leads to better physical health by enhancing immune function, but "this finding provides some support for the hypothesis that older adults who frequently attend religious services have healthier immune systems, although mechanism of effect remains unclear." They recommend further research

## Food Safety: A rising concern—Germ alert volunteers needed

Increases in outbreaks of foodborne illnesses across the country have focused consumer attention on the causes and prevention of outbreaks in the home. The most common foodborne illnesses are caused by bacteria such as E-Coli and Salmonella. In addition, these are also the easiest types to prevent.

Even with stricter government regulations to make our food supply safer, it is still the obligation of individual responsibility to handle food safely. There are many things we can do to prevent foodborne illnesses from occurring—thoroughly cooking foods to destroy bacteria, keeping raw and cooked foods separated and refrigerating cooked foods promptly are a few. Officials estimate that 12.6 million cases of foodborne illnesses occur each year. While some cases are mild and feel like the flu or an insect bite, others require hospitalization. Rutgers Cooperative Extension

of Union County's Family and Consumer Sciences Department has a project to educate people about safe food handling practices. If you are interested in learning more about home food safety and want to help others keep their families healthy, consider becoming a "Germ Alert" volunteer to help staff our interesting exhibit. Volunteers will attend a two-part training session Thursday evenings, November 6 and 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. Training will focus on principles of home food safety, practical advice and questions and answers on typical food safety questions from the public. Training is free in exchange for 10 hours of volunteer time during the 1998 calendar year.

For more information on safe food handling or Germ Alert Volunteers, contact Elizabeth A. Levin, CFS, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County at 908-654-9854.

## Health Calendar

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

MOUNTAIN SIDE—Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) seminar will be held at the Children's Specialized Hospital from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, call 908-235-3720.

ELIZABETH—Visiting Nurse and Health Services is sponsoring a free Rehabilitation Fair. Wheelchairs, braces, beds, bathroom equipment, etc. will be on display. For more info, call 1-800-717-CARE.

PLAINFIELD—Open house highlighting Dental Hygiene, Dental assisting and Medical Laboratory Technology programs from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-purpose room at Union County College's Plainfield Campus. For more info, call 908-889-2483.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

ORANGE—The Hospital Center at Orange will hold a free prostate cancer screening from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Gymnasium. For more info, call 973-266-2022.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

BOSTON, MA—The American Dietetic Association will have its 80th Annual Meeting and Exhibition. For more information, call 1-800-577-1600.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital is offering Massage Therapy sessions in the Community Health Services Building from 5 to 7 p.m. For more info, call 201-853-5186.

CRANFORD—Union County College's Psi Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, will conduct its bi-annual Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium. For more info, call 908-750-7503.

CLARK—Multi-care health center offers flu immunization program to the community from 4 to 8 p.m. Immunizations will be between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more info, call 908-851-7475.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

ELIZABETH—"Woman to Woman: Urinary Incontinence" is the title of a free public forum that will be held at Elizabeth General Medical Center from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the George F. Billington Conference Center, EGMCC West. For more info, call 1-800-525-3462.

Fax your health stories to  
City News 908-753-1036

## Solutions for healthy child care facilities or food safety

If you are a working parent and your child attends pre-school or a child care facility, the following information may help to cut sick days needed to attend in an ill child.

Children in care outside the home are at a higher risk for contracting disease because they are exposed to germs from other children. Because children's immune systems aren't yet fully developed, they come down with infectious disease early and often. Understanding the connection between proper hygiene and infectious disease control is vital in keeping child care facilities and homes healthy.

Handwashing is the simplest, most effective way to reduce the spread of infectious disease in child care facilities. In a study of child care centers where a handwashing training program was given and proper procedures were maintained, the rate of diarrhea, in the center, dropped 50 percent.

Following are suggestions of when children and staff should wash their hands:

Upon arrival

Before preparing, handling, or serving food

- Before and after eating meals or snacks
- After coming in from play
- After using toilet facilities
- After helping a child with toileting
- After handling classroom pets
- After diaper changing
- After cleaning diapering or bath-room areas, or cleaning up a mess
- After handling used tissues

Proper handwashing includes:

Step 1: Wet hands and lather, rubbing front and back for at least 20 seconds with soap, preferably liquid or powdered.

Step 2: Rinse under running water from wrists to fingertips.

Step 3: Dry hands with paper towel.

Step 4: Use paper towel to turn off faucet (remember—dirty hands turn the faucet on).

On field trips and other times when handwashing is not possible, use disposable wet wipes. Each adult/child should their own wipe.

Note: Soap does not have to be antibacterial. Bar soap or liquid soap may be used by staff, as both are equally effective. However, liquid soap should be used by children, as they may not have the dexterity to handle a bar of soap. It is the physical action of handwashing, not the type of soap, that removes soil. Bar soap does not transmit bacteria.

The other two steps that go hand-in-hand with handwashing, to prevent illness, is sanitizing and disinfecting.

For more information on solutions for healthy child care facilities or food safety, contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County at 908-654-9854, or your local Health Department. Rutgers Cooperative Extension provides information and educational services to all people without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, disability or handicap, or age.

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AIDS

Heart Disease

Cancer

Homicides

Healthy Babies

Drug Abuse

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HeartBeat is produced and distributed by City News  
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serving the needs of African Americans since 1983.

Call 908-754-3400

AIDS Heart Disease Cancer Homicides Healthy Babies Drug Abuse

# AAA offers wet weather driving tips

During the fall season, the dropping temperatures, rain and fog are serious driving hazards, says the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club. They impede your visibility and, at times, can make a short trip a frightening experience.

Taking preventative measures can lessen nature's hazards. "Checking the condition of your windshield wipers will go a long way in assuring optimum vision," said Jennifer Schneider, assistant manager of public relations and safety for the Florham Park based Club. "If the rubber is cracked or brittle, the wiper blade becomes dull, resulting in snearing and streaking. If this occurs, it's time to replace the blades. Keeping your windshield clean will also make driving in adverse weather conditions easier. Make sure both the inside and outside are free of streaks and smears."

"Properly working lights are also important when visibility is poor," Schneider added. "Check your car's headlights, tail lights and brakelights. They not only help you see, but be seen by other motorists as well."

In spite of preventative pleasures, the weather can present you with dangerous situations. Rain reduces visibility and can cause your vehicle to skid or hydroplane. Turn on your lights, wipers and defroster and slow down. More stopping time is required when roads are wet. Also, make sure there is more distance between your car and the one in front of you.

When it starts to rain, the oil and grease on roadways combines with leaves to make a slippery surface. To prevent a skid, slow down, steer and brake lightly. "If the rear end of your car begins to skid, ease off the gas and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go," advises Schneider.

AAA produces "Get A Grip," a

free brochure covering safe wet-weather driving. To obtain a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: AAA Public Relations, Get A Grip, 1 Hanover Road, Florham Park, NJ, 07932.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and Verona, provides automotive, travel financial, insurance, legislative and educational services to the residents of Essex, Morris and Union Counties.

# Visibility is the key to a safe halloween

Halloween can be a fun, enjoyable time for children and adults, especially when trick-or-treating is practiced safely.

"Visibility is the key to a safe Halloween," says Jennifer Schneider, assistant manager of public relations and safety for the New Jersey Automobile Club Foundation for Safety and Education in Florham Park.

"Visibility is more than just having children wear costumes bright enough to be seen by drivers. It also means parents should encourage their children to wear makeup instead of a mask which can hinder a child's vision." And, motorists need to do their part as well by being extra cautious if they're driving during the hours children are

trick-or-treating.

"The costume is the most important aspect of visibility," Schneider continued. "Children should wear simple costumes that are easy to walk in and are made of white or light-colored material. Costumes should be decorated with retro-reflective material, which makes children much more visible to drivers after dark. The material reflects the light from an oncoming car back to the driver, catching his or her attention."

When it comes to the trick-or-treat route, parents should advise children only to visit homes in a safe, well-lit neighborhood. Children should always carry a flashlight, making them more visible to traffic. A responsible adult or

older teen should accompany the trick-or-treaters and, if traveling in a group, try to limit the group size to four or five children so that the adult can keep track of everyone.

Prior to Halloween night, AAA suggests parents review the following safety precautions with their children:

- Never enter a stranger's house, even if you're invited.
- Always walk, don't run, to avoid falling.
- Cross only at corners, never between parked cars or at the middle of the block, because cars might not see you.
- If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic, as far off the roadway as possible.

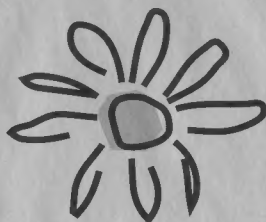
• Never eat any treats until you get home so they can be sorted and checked for any dangerous materials.

"Parents should check the contents of their children's treat bags as soon as they return home," advised Schneider. "Always wash and cut fruit into small pieces before eating to make sure no foreign objects have been inserted. Anything unwrapped should be discarded. If you do find something dangerous, notify your local police immediately."

Founded and funded by AAA members, the New Jersey Automobile Club Foundation for Safety and Education sponsors programs for area residents, businesses and community groups.

People  
are  
talking...

# about Muhlenberg's Cancer Services



## Planned Parenthood offers bloodless HIV tests! No needles needed

Do you hate to have blood drawn? Have you put off an HIV test because you couldn't face the needle stick? Planned Parenthood of the Greater Northern New Jersey (PPGNNJ) has the solution: OraSure. OraSure is a new HIV test that uses fluid from your mouth to detect HIV and the fluid is collected by a stick (similar to a lollipop) that must sit in your mouth for a few minutes.

And that's it! No needles or blood; OraSure is safe and painless, with over a 99% accuracy rate. The results are unaffected by food intake, false teeth and cigarette smoking.

For more information on OraSure, or to make an appointment, please call Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey: 123 Park Ave., Plainfield - 908-756-3736, 208 Commerce Pl., Elizabeth - 908-531-5384.

PPGNNJ is the largest family planning agency in the state, serving 30,000 patients through 10 centers in 7 north Jersey counties. We provide gynecological exams, contraceptive information and supplies, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy tests, prenatal care and woman centered primary care.

## Three easy steps that can save a woman's life

Women, the lead caregivers in most homes, often do not set aside time to care for their own healthcare needs-including breast health. With breast cancer now striking one woman in every eight, early detection and treatment are critically important. Ninety percent of breast cancers can be cured if detected early enough.

"There are three easy steps towards early detection of breast cancer that every woman can take," said Grace Nyatome, M.Ed., Coordinator of the Free Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program offered by Jersey City Family Health Center. Ms. Nyatome described the three steps as follows:

- 1) Learn to perform monthly breast self-examinations, and get into the habit of examining your breasts regularly.
- 2) At least once a year, have your physician examine your breasts as part of your annual physical or gynecological check-up. Take this opportunity to talk with your doctor about your risk factors and what you can do to modify and reduce your cancer risk.
- 3) Have regularly scheduled mammograms. A mammogram is a low-dose X-ray that can detect breast cancer while a tumor is very small-up to two years before it can be felt.

*"The stem cell  
transplant that I  
had at Muhlenberg  
Regional Medical  
Center was a miracle.  
It gave me what I  
needed to get well  
and go on living.*

*Thanks to the  
care I received from  
my doctors, the  
Muhlenberg staff,  
the support of my  
friends and especially  
my husband, William,  
I'm in remission. I  
feel wonderful, and  
I am so thankful."*

—Madelyn Reid  
Plainfield, NJ

At Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, we recognize the special needs of cancer patients and their loved ones. From state-of-the-art diagnostic procedures to compassionate inpatient and outpatient care, we help cancer patients and their families deal with this disease both physically and emotionally. Our cancer program includes:

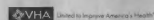
- A team approach for patients and families, including board-certified surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, specially-certified nurses and social workers, dietitians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists and clergy
- A specialty unit for inpatients who need hospital care; available treatment includes chemotherapy, radiation therapy and pain management therapy
- Home Care services for patients needing medical care following hospital discharge
- Hospice services for terminally ill patients and their families
- Breast and prostate cancer screenings and free informational programs on a variety of cancer-related topics throughout the year
- Free support groups, including the Insight Cancer Support Group, a Brain Tumor Support Group, a Caregiver Support Group, the Prostate Cancer Support Group and a Bereavement Support Group
- Sophisticated diagnostic testing, including CT, MRI, ultrasound, X-ray, nuclear medicine and pathology
- The Breast Health & Mammography Center to diagnose and treat breast cancer, including the latest state-of-the-art stereotactic breast biopsy equipment
- An innovative Stem Cell Transplant program

For more information about  
Muhlenberg's Cancer Services, please call  
(908) 668-2380.



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# Youth discuss self-hate on Day of Atonement

By Avery Grant

ASBURY PARK—More than 200 high school students sat in four circular groups discussing self-hate and solutions in the gymnasium of the West Side Community Center in Asbury Park on the Holy Day of Atonement.

"If we have a problem with someone, take it to the source," said Ronnie Cottfield, of the African American Society at Lakewood High School. "This 'he said-she said' causes problems and fights, and if you don't love yourself you get involved in conflicts that you don't want to get into," Tyrone Laws of the Center of Love, Asbury Park, and the leader of her discussion circle, had the group play the telephone game, whispering a message in the ear of a youth and it was passed around the circle and as was to be expected it came out completely different from the last student. "See if we couldn't get the story straight here in our circle, what happens if it went through your whole grade, went home and tomorrow it would come back that 'he talked about your mama something terrible' and big problems develop."

The youth were greeted by Minister John Muhammad, leader of the Asbury Park/Neptune Million Man March Coordinating Committee that organized this event to observe the Worldwide Holy Day of Atonement as proclaimed by Minister Louis Farrakhan. He asked them to discuss in their circles, "What do we suffer from self hatred, and what can we do about it?"

Laws asked, "We don't see a

brother, what do we see?" A girl in the circle responded, "We see a nigger!" Laws agreed, "In the late 1970's we stopped using the N-word, even Comedian Richard Pryor stopped using it, but it has reappeared among our young people." He asked what is the largest desert in the world, and some responded with the Sahara and Mojave deserts. He said, "No, it is the space between your ears, you see, ignorance is our worst problem because of the color of their skin."

Minister John Muhammad told the youths, I would be a fool and you would be a fool if you hated someone because of the color of their skin. "He said that all hate is not negative. "Even in the Bible and the Koran, Jesus hated many things like, lying, stealing, killing each other, adultery, cheating, drug dealing, and many other evil things."

The leaders of the other three groups were Minister Muhammad, Renee Muhammad, and Disc Jockey Hurricane. The central theme in all four circle groups was learn to know and love yourself, love your brothers and sisters, and getting the facts pre- senting wrong responses and reasons for problems and conflicts. The youths discussed sex, cosmetic make-up, "use some, but let your God-given beauty show, because we love ourselves." Though, not planned a fifth group of young men formed in the middle of the room, and they were discussing gang activity and responsibility for "our babies." This group was led by some members of the Respect For Life Muslim Study Center in Asbury Park.

# Will Soul Food bring a new menu to Hollywood?

Continued from page 1

actors and actresses. So did Emperor Jones, Gone With The Wind, Green Pastures, Cabin in the Sky, Song of the South, Tarzan, Jungle Jim, King Solomon's Mines and the film of 1970's blaxploitation films. Hollywood never had a problem creating ignominious roles for toms, coons, mulattos, mummies and clowns. And despite heavy profits in Black "gangsta"-decadence films, Hollywood is notbarreling ahead to bring out more Black films. And recent films, such asBoyz n the City, How to Be a Player, and Hoodlum hardly represent any departurefrom the set formula of gangster, comedy, and sexual hijinks reserved forBlack films.

But long before Soul Food, pioneer filmmaker Oscar Micheaux and later HalleGierman proved that there is a better way to create cinema opportunities forBlacks. In the 1930's, Micheaux made independent films on a meager budget that employed hundreds of Black actors, actresses and technicians. In recent times, Gerima did not wait for or beg Hollywood to bankroll the anti-slavery epic, Sankofa in 1993. He proved that a commerciallysuccessful independent Black film can create jobs and opportunities fordozens of Blacks in the 1990s.

"Black films put dollars in Black pockets. Not they put dollars in the pockets of wealthy investors, executives, corporations, distributors, theater chain owners, and elite screenwriters."

Author Terry McMillan reportedly sold the rights to her book, Waiting to Exhale, for the film released in 1996, for less than \$1 million. The film-grossed \$60 million. Alice Walker thought she beat Hollywood's "creativising" methods when she signed for three percent of the gross

revenues for Steven Spielberg's screen adaptation of Color Purple in 1985. The movie was a huge hit. Spielberg and Warner Bros. made a mint, and Walker by her own account, got only "a fraction" of what she thought the movie earned.

Meanwhile, far too many Black leaders and organizations have maintained astute like silence on these cinematic assassinations of the Black image.

This is irritating especially since they pay endless lip service to the notion of promoting Black achievement and demolishing racial stereotypes.

They know that many of the young Black filmmakers writing about the "hood" couldn't find a housing project or the inside of a welfare office if their lives depended on it. They know that many young Blacks who flock to these movies neither live in the ghetto nor have had a "ghetto experience."

They know that many young Blacks are in cessant watching these characterswagger, posture, act tough, be defiant and sexually outlandish because they imagine that they actually are rebelling against something. They know that Blacks pay a huge price for peddling stereotypes by themselves about themselves in the form of the escalating attacks by politicians on social programs, the increased racial hostility of many whites, and the massive numbers of Blacks being shuttled off to prison and graveyards. Some Black leaders do speak out and they should be applauded. The success of Soul Food will hopefully embolden even more to speak out against some of these other film and TV obscenities.

But more importantly, by packing the theaters to see Soul Food, African Americans have strongly signaled that they hunger to see themselves depicted

on the screen as more than just crooks, clowns and charity cases.

I sincerely hope that Hollywood will change its menu to satisfy that hunger.

Dr. Hutchinson is the author of "The Assassination of the Black Male Image."



Vivica Fox, Nia Long and Vanessa Williams portray three sisters in Soul Food

# Commemoration service for one of Newark's firsts

The Newark Chapter of Frontier's International held a Commemoration Service for the late William M. Ashby at the Ashby/Wallace Park in Newark, Ashby, New Jersey's first African-American Social worker was 101 when he died in 1991.

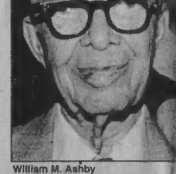
A graduate of Yale University, Ashby was a founder and first Director of the Newark Welfare League, and later, the Newark and Elizabeth chapters of the Urban League. He also served on the Newark Preservations and Landmark

Committee.

He was also the first African-American to have a state building named in his honor. The Department of Community Affairs building located in Trenton.

Bill, as he was called by his friends, was the author of three books, among them "Tales Without Hate," written in 1980, and five plays.

Frontiers International, a predominantly Black fraternal service association, was founded in 1936. Ashby was one of the founding members.



William M. Ashby

# Project Higher Ground inaugural event scheduled

The Reverend Congressman Floyd Flake will serve as the keynote speaker for the Project Higher Ground kick-off banquet on Friday, October 31, 1997, at the Newark Airport Marriott Hotel beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$60.

Sponsored by St. Matthew A.M.E. Church in Orange, Project Higher Ground is the name of a major renovation project the church is embarking upon. Project Higher Ground is designed to expand the physical church building to better serve the existing and planned spiritual and cognitively-based services offered by the church.

"Our church membership has grown rapidly over the last several years," said Reverend Reginald Jackson, Pastor of St. Matthew. "This membership growth, coupled with our expanded outreach ministries necessitates this expansion."

Project Higher Ground renovations will include the expansion of the existing sanctuary, building a balcony in the sanctuary, building an educational center

and a chapel.

Congressman Flake, who announced his plans to resign from Congress this year is also the distinguished pastor of Allen A.M.E. Church in Jamaica, N.Y. As pastor of Allen, Reverend Flake has overseen the explosive growth of the church from a congregation of 1,400 to one of over 8,000 parishioners. This growth has been transformed into meaningful community institutions for parishioners and the residents of New York City. As a U. S. Congressman, Representative Flake's many accomplishments include his role as the author of The Bank Enterprise Act of 1994, designed to attract new and increased investment in under served communities by creating significant incentives for financial institutions to participate in qualified lending programs.

To purchase tickets for the banquet and obtain additional information on Project Higher Ground, please phone the St. Matthew A.M.E. Church office at (973) 678-1217.

# Service honors Dr. Samuel Proctor



Rev. Samuel DeWitt Proctor

By Daryle Lamont Jenkins

Over 200 friends, relatives, and admirers gathered at Kirkpatrick Chapel on the Douglass College campus in New Brunswick for a memorial service honoring the Reverend Samuel DeWitt Proctor, the veteran civil-rights leader who died May 22 at the age of 75.

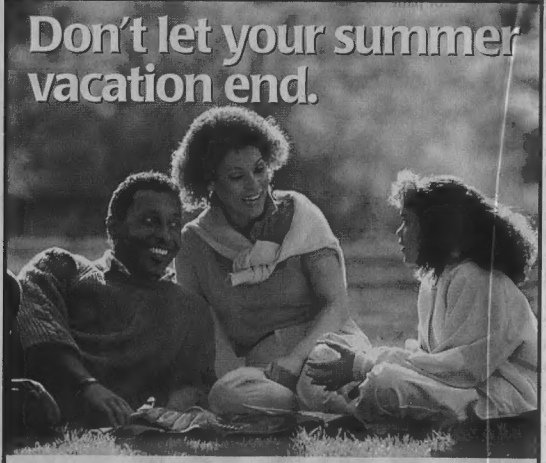
The Reverend Proctor, who served as pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City, and was one of the City News 100 Most Influential for 1997, also served as Professor of Education Emeritus at Rutgers and was a visiting professor in the Department of Africana Studies. In addition, he served as chair of Rutgers' Campaign for Community Diversity and Educational Excellence.

"We are not here in memorial or to remember Samuel DeWitt Proctor, but to salute his real presence in the spirit," remarked Reverend Dr. Leonard L. Bethel, Associate Professor, Africana Studies as he welcomed attendees to the service, which included Dr. Proctor's widow. "As long as those of you love him, he lives."

The North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club was on hand performing selections for the service. Remarks were given by University President Dr. Francis L. Lawrence, Dr. Clement C. Wilkinson, professor of History, and Louise C. Wilkinson, dean of the Graduate School of Education. In his remarks, Dr. Lawrence announced a formation of a chairmanship in Dr. Proctor's name.

The service was met with some protest however from the New Jersey Black Ministers' Council who felt slighted when they were neither informed nor invited. Calls to Reverend Reginald Jackson, head of the Council, were unanswered.

The Reverend Moses Williams, sexton of Kirkpatrick Chapel said he was meeting with members of the United Nations to hold a memorial service for Dr. Proctor there. Reverend Williams recently set up a teleconference through the United Nations with inter cities around the country and other nations, hoping that such efforts would build those bridges Dr. Proctor was working for. "We want to establish institutions that will reflect the contributions he made," he said.



# Don't let your summer vacation end.

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of Newark's Blessed Sacrament Church

**Sunday, November 2, 3 p.m.**  
(open seating begins at 2:30 p.m.)

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
73 So. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair

General admission: \$15 per person  
Tickets at the door or by calling 973-482-8411  
Visa/MasterCard orders: 1-800-850-0545

Founded in 1918, Youth Consultation Service (YCS) serves destitute, abused, neglected, special education and other "at risk" children, and families in crisis. Proceeds from this event will help support summer programs for YCS children.

# ARTZ Wednesday

City News 84

OCTOBER 22 - OCTOBER 28, 1997

## Billboard

## 'Zulu Macbeth' Comes to NJPAC in Newark



The legendary South African production of Welcome Msimi's "Umabatha—The Zulu Macbeth" will be presented at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Prudential Hall on Tuesday, October 28, at 7:30 p.m.

A spectacular, energetic production featuring more than 60 dancers, singers and drummers, Umabatha sets Shakespeare's classic in 19th century Africa. Dancing with doctors replace Macbeth's three witches and African warriors succeed the Scots as the story of Macbeth, a character based on the great African warrior statesman Shaka, King of the Zulus—unfolds on stage. Performed entirely in Zulu, Umabatha—The Zulu Macbeth will be presented with English subtitles projected above the stage.

"For me Umabatha turns the dramatic arts into pure action, the Zulu traditional dancing, story telling and music, as it was sung many centuries ago, allowed me an opportunity to take pride in the richness of our South African culture. I hope that as we present Umabatha, it will inspire a lot of other South Africans to show the world about the diversity of our cultures," says Playwright Welcome Msimi.

Msimi began writing Umabatha in 1969, when a professor suggested that he base a play about the great African nations on a universally known classic so that it might be understood more easily by the world at large. For tickets, ranging from \$17-38, call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

**NEWARK**—The NJ Performing Arts Center presents "Chaka Khan & The Jive Brothers in Prudential Hall. For more info, call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

**JERSEY CITY**—A quartet of marimbas from the Jersey City State University Percussion Ensemble will perform in a campus "Mid-Day Concert" at 12 p.m. in room 202 of Hapburn Hall. For more info, call 201-200-3426.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—Violinist Shomo Mintz performs Tchaikovsky 8 p.m., State Theater. For more info, call 201-624-3713.

**NEWARK**—Canada's premiere puppet theater, Theatre Sans Fil, opens at the NJ Performing Arts Center with the "Dream Catchers" puppet show. For ticket info, call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

**WAYNE**—Guitarist Richard Jacobowski and vocalist Barbara Reinick presents a midday recital at William Paterson University at 12:30 p.m. For more info, call 973-720-2986.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

**NEWARK**—Violinist Shomo Mintz performs Tchaikovsky 8 p.m. New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For more info, call 201-624-3713.

**NEWARK**—African Ghetto Theatre-Worship presents Chuck Cunningham's "NEGRO BUILDING" through the 26th. For more information, call 973-624-1584.

**JERSEY CITY**—"Jazz Café" Series presents "Ted Curson Jazz Band" at the Miller Branch Library—Cultural Arts Center. For more info, call (201) 547-6907.

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—The Youth Ensemble of the Jazz Institute of New Brunswick will perform at Founder's Day, New Brunswick Theatrical Society. For more info, call 732-214-0113.

**JERSEY CITY**—Café Jazz Series features live jazz at the Cultural Arts Center, Miller Branch Library. For more info, call 201-547-4505.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

**FANWOOD**—The Philathalians opens their 19th season with "Hustle," a court-room drama by Tom Topor at 8:30 p.m. through Nov. 8. For more info, call 908-322-8686.

**NORTH BRANCH**—The first "CLASSICS" concert will be presented by Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra, "Late Haydn—Early Beethoven," at 8 p.m. in the Edward Nash Theatre at Pleasant Valley Community College. For more info, call 908-231-8813.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

**NEWARK**—Violinist Shomo Mintz performs Tchaikovsky 3 p.m., New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For more info, call 201-624-3713.

**EAST ORANGE**—East Orange Public Library presents St. Matthew A.M.E. Church Men's Chorus, "The Sons of Thunder."

**WAYNE**—Saxophonist Stanley Turentine performs with the William Paterson Jazz Ensemble at 4 p.m. in the Shea Center for Performing Arts. For more info, call 973-720-2986.

**MONTCLAIR**—Jazz pianist, Marcus Roberts, will perform with Jason Marsalis (percussion) and David Grossman (bass) at Montclair State University at 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

**NEWARK**—Young People's Concerts presents "Music in Living Colour" at the NJPAC at 10 a.m. and 1:30 a.m. For more info, call 973-624-3713 ext. 216.

**NEW YORK, NY**—Manny's Car Wash features Carey Bell. For more info, call 212-369-BLUES.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

**ENGLEWOOD**—Pianist Yefim Bronfman performs Mozart, 8 p.m. John Harms Center. For more info, call 201-624-3713.

**WASHINGTON, DC**—Smithsonian Institution exhibition "Seeing Jazz" premieres through Jan. 19th. For more info, call 202-357-2827.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

**PRINCETON**—Pianist Yefim Bronfman performs Mozart, 8:30 p.m. Richardson Auditorium. For more info, call 201-624-3713.

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—Celebrate Halloween with the Rutgers University's Orchestra, Richard Ausloos Clark, conductor, in a performance of "Mozart's 'Night on Bald Mountain'" at 8 p.m. at Nicholas Music Center. For more info, call 732-932-7511.

**PISCATAWAY**—"The Boys in the Band" will play at Circle Players, 2 p.m. For more info, call 732-968-7555.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

**RED BANK**—Pianist Yefim Bronfman performs Mozart, 8:30 p.m., Court House Theater. For more information, call 201-624-3713.

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—The works of composer Lou Harrison will be featured by a percussion orchestra built by him, 8 p.m. at the Nicholas Music Center, Douglass College. For more info, call 732-932-7511.

**NEWARK**—The Youth Ensemble of the Jazz Institute of New Brunswick will perform at the NJPAC. For more info, call 732-214-0113.

**CALDWELL**—"The Concerts at Caldwell College continues its second annual concert series at 8 p.m. in the Alumni Theatre when the Trio Intermzzo, with guest violinist Anne Lieberman, present "Abend Musik-German Chamber Music From Bach to Bruch." For more info, call 973-220-4424, ext. 520.

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—American composer, Lou Harrison's works will be featured by an orchestra of percussion instruments built by him, 2 p.m. at the Nicholas Music Center, Douglass College. For more info, call 732-932-7511.

**NEW BRUNSWICK**—The Guangdong Modern Dance Company, China's first professional modern dance company, performs at Rutgers as part of their inaugural tour of the U.S. & A. For more info, call 732-932-7511.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

**WAYNE**—Contemporary Chambers Players of Stony Brook presents a concert at William Paterson State College. For more info, call 973-720-2986.

## It's a Monster Mash!

Halloween week on TLC

TV—Monsters, vampires, witches, ghosts and aliens...let's see, have we left anyone out? Oh, right, can't forget the wolfman. The Learning Channel rounds up the usual scariest suspects for an entertaining Halloween Week, leading up to the freaky Friday holiday itself.

**Sunday, Oct. 26**  
**Witches and Vampires**  
9-10 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Castle Ghosts of Wales**  
10-11 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Monday, Oct. 27**  
**UFOs and Alien Encounters**  
9-10 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Monsters and Mythical Beasts**  
10-11 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 28**  
**Wolfman-The Myth and the Science**  
9-10 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Bigfoot**  
10-11 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 29**  
**Castle Ghost of Ireland**  
9-10 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Castle Ghosts of Scotland**  
10-11 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Thursday, Oct. 30**  
**The Quest: Bigfoot**  
9:30-10 & 12-12:30 a.m.

**The Quest: Psychic Science**  
9:30-10 & 12:30-1 a.m.

**Hauntings Across America**  
10-11 p.m. & 1-2 a.m.

**Friday, Oct. 31**  
**The Real Frankenstein - The Untold Story**  
9-10 p.m. & 12-1 a.m.

**Unnatural Science**  
10-11 p.m. & 1-2 a.m.

## Theater REVIEW

**Title: Darker Face of the Earth**

**Playwrite: Rita Dove**

**Directed by: Ricardo Khan**

**Venue: Crossroads Theater, New Brunswick**

In her playbill statement for "Darker Face of the Earth," Playwright (and former U.S. Poet Laureate) Rita Dove asks the question "Why did we find meaning in Greek tragedies?" How could they be fascinating when the ending was inevitable, decreed? Where was the suspense, where was the conflict?

She goes on, not only in the rest of her statement, but in her play, which just opened at Crossroads Theatre, to answer the question. Through the unfolding of the age-old Oedipus tragedy, rest on a rural plantation scene in the antebellum South. Dove and Director Ricardo Khan (Crossroads Artistic Director and Founder) working with choreographer Diane McIntyre, and composer Oda Nwaeze, a tapestry of light, sound, movement, and drama into a two and one-half hour (!) epic for the American stage. "Darker Face of the Earth" invites the audience to witness a crime story of man, woman, community, and race as they hurtle into an abyss of deception, retribution, betrayal, fate, and come through the destiny which awaits on the other side.

With an outstanding ensemble cast of 20, (perhaps the largest ever assembled for the Crossroads stage), led by the dynamic Ezra Knight as Augustus, Felicity La Fortune as Annalida, and BW Gonzales as Phoebe, "Darker Face of the Earth" affirms the power of both the written and spoken word. The audience can predict the ending, but cannot be satisfied until they complete this journey from Mount Olympus to South Carolina.

Yes, the play is too long, and yes, there are times when I felt that the audience was almost lost in the text when taken as a whole. "Darker Face of the Earth" is poetry in motion, which is only right. For as Augustus tells Phoebe in a telling scene, poetry is like dancing without music.

Future audiences of "Darker Face of the Earth" will find new truths in an old story. This play proves that the journey can indeed be satisfying, even when we know the outcome.

"Darker Face of the Earth," is now at Crossroads from Oct. 4 to Nov. 2. It then travels to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. —J.L.R.

## Funny woman Rosie O'Donnell to perform at benefit

**Benefit Concert**  
MOUNTAINSIDE—Rosie O'Donnell, Daytime Emmy Award winner and one of Hollywood's top comedic actresses, will make a special guest appearance at the 10th Annual Children's Specialized Hospital Umbrella Gala starring Robert Flack and will attend the sponsors' reception prior to the performance.

The Gala, produced for the past 10 years by the Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation, has raised \$1.5 million for the pediatric rehabilitation hospital. The goal for this year's event, scheduled Monday, November 3 at the new New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, is \$250,000.

Billed as "An Evening with Robert Flack," the concert will be one of the first benefit performances staged in NJPAC's \$2,750-seat Prudential Hall.

Rosie O'Donnell has become America's best friend for an hour each day as host and executive producer of the critically acclaimed, nationally

syndicated talk/variety series "The Rosie O'Donnell Show."

As a tireless crusader for children, O'Donnell established the For All Kids Foundation, which distributes money to children's charities across the country. In April 1997, "Kids Are Funny," a best-selling collection of Rosie's favorite jokes sent to her TV show by kids, was published by Warner Books with all proceeds going to the Foundation.

All funds raised by this event will support the work of Children's Specialized Hospital, New Jersey's only hospital dedicated exclusively to pediatric rehabilitation, treating children and adolescents from birth through 21 years.

For more information about 10th Annual Umbrella Gala sponsorship tickets and privileges may be obtained, contacting Paula Brown, Corporate and Foundation Relations Director, Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation, 908-233-3720, ext. 5276.

Individual performance-only tickets may be purchased through the NJPAC box office, by calling 1-888-GO-NJPAC.



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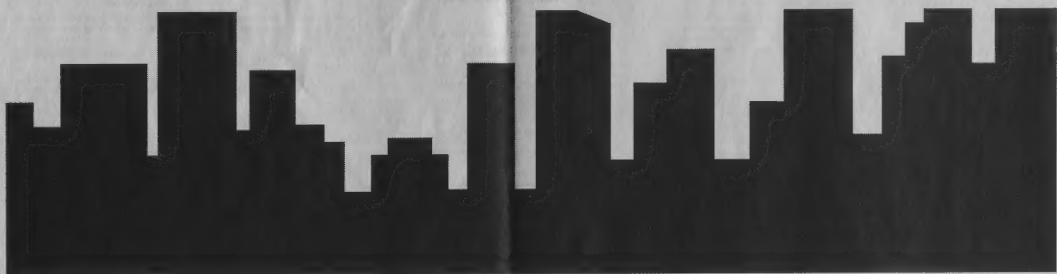
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## A Call to Action

# New Jersey Urban Centers need a Millennium Plan



## *Urban centers need commitment to stimulate economic development and school achievement*

This year candidates for governor seem increasingly aware of the importance of the cities for their success, each has courted ministerial and community organizations trying to get their support. But are the candidates seeing the big picture? Invariably, when it comes to addressing issues the candidates think are important to the Black Community, they spend 90% of their verbal message talking on matters to appeal to the needs of the urban poor i.e., welfare, affordable housing, etc. While these issues may be a concern for the majority of the Black community, there are broader issues that concern many. Little if any written or verbal messages address economic development or job creation in urban centers. How do the candidates propose to create economic development and bring jobs into the urban centers? How do the candidates plan to improve the primary and secondary public schools in communities throughout the state? What are they proposing to reduce urban crime? Both Democrats and Republicans, seem to associate urban centers with only those who are poor.

The Democrats stand to lose many Black voters because they have fixated at the lower income end of the urban spectrum to shape their message which too often equates income limitations with lower values. The only reason there is not wholesale desertion of the Democratic party is that Republicans have failed to do much better in articulating concerns of the broader base of Black Americans. In addition, the appearance nationally is that Republicans have tended to be anti everything that may benefit Blacks in order to build a broader white conservative constituency.

The candidate who presents an action plan that affirms their commitment to urban centers in the new millennium will go a long way in changing the course of poverty in the urban communities as well as the voter base in urban centers. However, until the time a candidate gives us a real plan that will make a difference in our communities, we will get more lip service and piece meal solutions regardless of which party controls the Governor's office.

Therefore, we are calling on candidates for Governor of the great state of New Jersey to commit to presenting a Millennium Plan to revitalize New Jersey urban centers and public schools, thus ensuring New Jersey's competitiveness as a state in the new millennium.

## Signed by Concerned Citizens of New Jersey

**Hamilton V. Bowser, Sr., P.E., President**  
Evanbow Construction Co. Inc.

**Bishop William T. Cahoon, Jurisdictional Bishop**  
House of Prayer Church of God In Christ

**Kevin Derricotte**  
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**Dr. A Gaymon, President**  
North Jersey Medical Society

**Elaine C. Harrington, President**  
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**Jerry Jackson, Chair**  
Society of African-American  
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**Rev. Moses A. Knott, Pastor**  
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Black Ministers Council of New Jersey

**Henry C. Johnson, Ph.D., President**  
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**William Merritt, President & CEO**  
National Black United Fund

**Dr. M. Frances Manning, President**  
Fellowship of Black Churches, Bergen County and vicinity.

**Henry McCloud**  
NJ Institute of Technology

**Dr. Guy C. McCombs, President**  
Third Power Market Development

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**Howard Robinson, Regional Chairman**  
National Business League of New Jersey

**Benjamin Rose, Executive Secretary**  
National Association of Minority Contractors

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**Ella S. Teal, President**  
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**Pastor L. Williams, Manager**  
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**Gregory Williams, President**  
Mercer County Black Business Association

If you want to let our gubernatorial candidates know your concerns about developing New Jersey's urban communities, join the list by sending your name to City News, PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ or fax us at 908-753-1036